the need for concerted international effort infighting terrorism everywhere in the world. This was reiterated to the Deputy Prime Minister.

(d) Both countries expressed hope for resumption of India-Pakistan dialogue and conveyed, in this context, that they would continue to press Pakistan to fulfil its commitments on cross-border terrorism.

Relevance of UN as peace keeper

2005. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives, if any taken by Government to help to restore the relevance of the UN as an International peace keeper and as custodian of the international conscience in relation between nations in the aftermath of the second Iraq war; and

(b) whether Government are in active engagement with the US to ensure that the reconstruction of Iraq is in accordance with procedures that have international acceptance and in accordance with the basic principles of international law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) India has consistently advocated an active and enlarged role by the United Nations in the post war period in Iraq.

India has welcomed the adoption to UNSCR 1483 as a positive step towards restoring normalcy and peace to Iraq. We continue to keep in touch with all important countries and the UN authorities on the evolving situation in Iraq.

Consultation with friendly countries regarding development of Indian troops in Iraq

2006. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether extensive consultation with friendly countries in the Middle East and Persian Gulf Area have been held in connection with deployment of Indian troops in Iraq; if so, what are the conclusions drawn by Government regarding the deployment of Indian troops at this stage in Iraq;

(b) whether Government agrees with the US interpretation of the UNSC resolutions regarding deployment of third country troops in Iraq at this point of time; and

(c) what further clarifications, if any, have been sought from the USA and the United Nations by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. Based on these consultations, as well as other relevant factors, Government reached the decision that, were there to be an explicit U.N. mandate for the purpose the Government of India could consider the deployment of our troops in Iraq.

(b) and (c) there are divergent approaches and varying interpretations of the UNSC Resolution 1483 with regard to deployment of third country troops in Iraq. The Government is monitoring developments in the U.N. in this regard.

Laying of Afghan Roads

2007. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to lay Afghan roads;

(b) if so, the request received in this connection from the Afghan Government; and

(c) by when the work would be undertaken by Border Road Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes. As part of India's extensive humanitarian, financial and project assistance to Afghanistan, it is proposed to undertake road construction in Afghanistan. During several bilateral interactions with Afghanistan, the Afghan Government has urged India to provide assistance in infrastructure sector, including laying of roads.